

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe joint, comprising:
a joint main body having a joining hole with an inside surface configured to receive a pipe and a threaded part formed on an outer surface;
a nut threaded onto said threaded part in a threaded state; and
a sleeve dimensioned to be received in said joining hole to a specific position when [[in]] the nut is in the threaded state and said pipe is inserted in said joining hole such that said nut retains said pipe in said joining hole via said sleeve tightly engaging said pipe and said joint main body by the threading of said nut onto said threaded part to the threaded state, with the sleeve being deformed to expand radially outward, and to prevent subsequent insertion of said sleeve into said joining hole to the specific position in a subsequent unthreaded state in which said pipe and said sleeve have been pulled out from said joining hole after said nut has been threaded onto said threaded part to reach the threaded state in which the sleeve has been deformed, said sleeve having a radially external portion with a split-level part, with said split-level part being engageable on said joint main body such that insertion of said sleeve into said joining hole to the specific position is prevented after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state,
said joint main body having a split part that engages said split-level part of said sleeve when said sleeve is reinserted after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein
said sleeve includes a first inclined surface and a second inclined surface that are
respectively declined and inclined toward a direction of insertion into said joining hole,
said first inclined surface widens radially outward with increased distance from a
distal end of said sleeve in the direction of insertion, and
said second inclined surface is formed farther toward a rear end of said sleeve in the
direction of insertion than said first inclined surface, and ~~is disposed farther radially inward~~
~~with increased distance from~~ connects to said first inclined surface at said split-level part such
that the outer diameter of said first inclined surface at said split-level part is smaller than the
outer diameter of said second inclined surface at said split-level part.

5. (Previously Presented) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein
said split-level part of said sleeve is formed between said first inclined surface and
said second inclined surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein
said joint main body includes at least one slit extending radially outward from a space
in said joining hole at an inlet side of said joining hole.

7. (Currently Amendment) The pipe joint as recited in claim ~~[[3]]~~1, wherein said ~~split-level~~ split part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface ~~for simplifying to simplify~~ the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~[[The]]~~ pipe joint, as recited in claim 2, wherein comprising:

a joint main body having a joining hole with an inside surface configured to receive a pipe and a threaded part formed on an outer surface;

a nut threaded onto said threaded part in a threaded state; and

a sleeve dimensioned to be received in said joining hole to a specific position when the nut is in the threaded state and said pipe is inserted in said joining hole such that said nut retains said pipe in said joining hole via said sleeve tightly engaging said pipe and said joint main body by the threading of said nut onto said threaded part to the threaded state, with the sleeve being deformed to expand radially outward, and to prevent subsequent insertion of said sleeve into said joining hole to the specific position in a subsequent unthreaded state in which said pipe and said sleeve have been pulled out from said joining hole after said nut has been threaded onto said threaded part to reach the threaded state in which the sleeve has been deformed, said sleeve having a radially external portion with a split-level part, with said split-level part being engageable on said joint main body such that insertion of said sleeve into said joining hole to the specific position is prevented after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state,

said nut and said sleeve ~~[[are]]~~being configured and arranged to prevent threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by said split-level part

of said sleeve engaging said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

9. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim 1, wherein said joint main body includes an opposing surface that faces a side surface of said nut when said nut is screwed onto said threaded part,[[;]] and said side surface of said nut and said opposing surface of said joint main body are dimensioned to form a gap in the threaded state to obtain an appropriate tightening torque ~~for screwing to screw~~ said nut onto said threaded part.

10. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim 1, wherein said pipe is a copper pipe or a thin stainless steel pipe.

11. (Previously Presented) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein said joint main body includes at least one slit extending radially outward from a space in said joining hole at an inlet side of said joining hole.

12. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein said ~~split-level~~ split part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface ~~for simplifying to simplify~~ the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve.

13. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim [[3]]1, wherein said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged to prevent threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by said split-level part of said

sleeve engaging said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The pipe joint as recited in claim 5, wherein said joint main body includes at least one slit extending radially outward from a space in said joining hole at an inlet side of said joining hole.

17. (Currently Amended) The pipe joint as recited in claim 5, wherein said ~~split-level~~ split part of said joint main body includes an inclined surface for ~~simplifying~~ simplify the pulling out of said pipe and said sleeve.

18. (Previously Presented) The pipe joint as recited in claim 4, wherein said nut and said sleeve are configured and arranged to prevent threaded engagement of said nut with said threaded part of said joint main body by said split-level part of said sleeve engaging said joint main body after said sleeve has been deformed by said nut being in said threaded state.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Canceled).